

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015491
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY AF:KHSMITH:MN
APPROVED BY AF: AMB. SCHAUFEL
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN
-----242157Z 027983 /64

O 242124Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 015491

NODIS
FOR SEITZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 097 ACTION SECSTATE 24 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0097

NODIS
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEL
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RH
SUBJ: RHODESIAN REPORT ON RICHARD-SMITH MEETING
OF JANUARY 24

REF: CAPE TOWN 0095

1. HAWKINS PHONED THE DCM THIS MORNING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE
AMBASSADOR TO BRIEF HIM ON A TELEPHONE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED
FROM SALISBURY. HAWKINS SAID THAT THE SITUATION FOLLOWING
RICHARD'S TALKS WITH IAN SMITH OVER THE WEEKEND DID NOT LOOK
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GOOD. SMITH HAD DECIDED, AFTER A HECTIC WEEKEND OF CAREFUL
STUDY AND SOLICITATION OF A GREAT DEAL OF ADVICE, THAT THE
PROPOSALS RICHARD PUT FORWARD DID NOT SEEM TO FORM A BASIS
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. SMITH EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT
THEREBY BREAKING OFF TALKS, BUT HE URGED A RETURN TO THE
ORIGINAL ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

2. IN SMITH'S VIEW, THERE HAD BEEN A BASIC SHIFT IN EMPHASIS. HE THOUGHT WHAT RICHARD HAD IN MIND WOULD QUITE CLEARLY LEAD TO THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF BLACK RULE. THE PROPOSED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOT AT ALL ACCEPTABLE. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, DESPITE THE VETO POWER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN WAS TO HAVE, WERE NOT SATISFACTORY BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY ITEMS WHICH COULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE VETO; THE WHITES WOULD, IN FACT, NOT BE ABLE TO AFFECT DECISIONS. MOREOVER, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, DAVID SMITH, THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC CHAOS WAS VERY SUBSTANTIAL. SMITH AGAIN EMPHASIZED HE WAS NOT BREAKING OFF ANY TALKS OR DISCUSSIONS, BUT IT WAS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL TO GET BACK TO THE PROPER BASIS, WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE ANGLO-AMERICAN FORMULA.

3. THE RHODESIANS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE WITH RICHARD THAT THE ONLY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD BE SUCCESSFUL ARE THOSE WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. IN THE RHODESIAN VIEW, THE KEY TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IS AGREEMENT AMONG THE BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS.

4. SMITH STRESSED, ACCORDING TO HAWKINS, THAT ACCEPTANCE OF RICHARD'S PROPOSALS WOULD RESULT IN A CALAMITOUS DROP IN RHODESIAN MORALE. RICHARD IS DUE TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN SALISBURY AT ABOUT 1300 AFTER WHICH HE WILL FLY TO JOHANNESBURG. SMITH IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION THIS EVENING AT 8 PM SALISBURY TIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, PROGRESS REPORTS, PLANNING MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE015491
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KHSMITH:MN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770001-0235
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770123/aaaaaukv.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17112bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 95
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3518912
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN REPORT ON RICHARD-SMITH MEETING OF JANUARY 24
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (RICHARD, IVOR), (SMITH, IAN)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17112bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009